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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/335,363
Filing Date	June 17, 1999
First Named Inventor	George K. Shibata, et al.
Group Art Unit	1743
Examiner Name	P. Bex
Attorney Docket Number	39D-1884

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.
NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____

- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

- The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1314
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 740.00 enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

01/07/2002 SDUONG 00000066 09335363

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)

Wei-Ning Yang

Signature

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

38,690

Date

October 22, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)

Wei-Ning Yang

Signature

Date

October 22, 2001

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39D-1884 (81841.0019)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

George K. Shibata, *et al.*

Serial No: 09/335,363

Filed: June 17, 1999

For: SAMPLE LOADING AND
HANDLING INTERFACE TO
MULTIPLE CHEMISTRY
ANALYZERS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: P. Bex

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October 22, 2001

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Date

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX RCE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before examining the above-referenced application, please enter the following
amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the text of claims 1 and 20 with the following text:

1. (Twice Amended) A clinical chemistry system comprising:
- a storing station that receives and stores a plurality of primary sample tubes;
 - a sampling station including a sample probe that draws a volume of sample from a primary sample tube and transfers the volume to a secondary tube;
 - a carriage mechanism that grips one of the plurality of primary sample tubes and transports the primary sample tube to the sampling station and returns the primary sample tube from the sampling station to the storing station;
 - a first and a second secondary tube transfer station, respectively, for coupling to first and second analyzers, the first and second sample tube transfer stations adapted to move the secondary sample tube from a continuous transport